A true

# NARRATIVE

Of the PROCEEDINGS

# At the Sessions

Holden for *London* and *Middlesex*,
At Justice-hall in the *Old-bayly*,
The 10th and 11th days of *May*, 1676.

Setting forth the Tryal and Condemnation of the man for having several Wives, and the woman for having several Husbands: and other most material Passages.

And also an account of the Tryal of the Woman who was arraigned as being accessary to the Sacrilegious Robbery of St. *Giles's*-Church: With the Tryal of the man for buying the Plate of her.

And likewise how many are Condemn'd, how many Burn'd in the hand, and Transported.

*These are to satisfie all People, that the Book of the Sessions with the Name of* John Millet, *was the Tryals four Sessions ago.*

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With Permission, *Ro. L'Estrange.*

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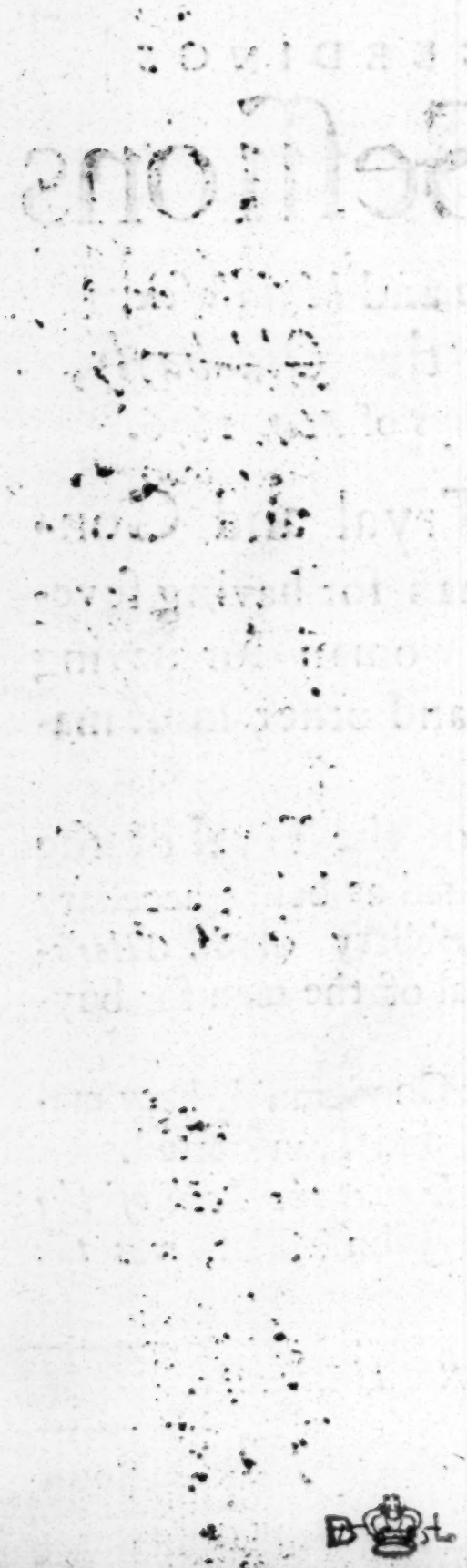

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# NARRATIVE

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# POCEEDINGS

# At the Seſſions

Holden for *London* and *Middleſex*,

At Juſtice-hall in the *Old-bayly*,

The 10th and 11th days of *May*, 1676.

THe Maleſactors Arraigned every month at the Seſſions in the *Old-bayly*, being commonly ſo numerous, and their Crimes ſo various, as well as their methods of putting them in practice, ſo new-invented and unheard-of; It has been thought convenient from time to time to contiaue the publication of the Tranſactions there to the world, that the honeſt ſecurely innocent may for the future be forearm'd by requiſite caution and the

ill disposed, warned to leave off and avoid such subtile and mischievous practices.

The Sessions began on *Wednesday* the 10th of this Instant *May*, and though it determined the following evening, yet to relate exactly all the Minute-circumstances of the Villanies there unravel'd, would bee too tedious; we shall therefore give onely a brief, yet most true, and plain account of the most material Passages.

Amongst which we must reckon the trial of that much talkt-of person charged by common Fame with having Seventeen Wives, though to do him Right it must be acknowledged that he was Indicted only for four, and being Arraigned upon the first, knowing what punctual proof there was prepared both of the Ministers that performed the Ceremony and others, and that if he were found Guilty on that, he should be excluded from the benefit of his Clergy upon the rest that he should be Convicted of, therefore being well tutor'd in that Skill, which not a fresh man in that University is ignorant of, He very frankly at once pleaded Guilty to that and all other Indictments within the benefit of Clergy, and so prevented all farther disquisition of the circumstances, and we are sorry we are forced to fail the Readers expectations in a Relation which would certainly have been very rare and divertiseing; But not wholly to disappoint their curiosity, we hope we may insert what

what we could gather from the most credible Reports concerning him, which is, that for about five years last past or more he has made it his business to ramble up and down most parts of *England* pretending himself a person of quality, and assuming the names of good families, and that he had a considerable Estate *per Annum*, though in Truth he was old *Sutor ultra Crepidam*, a Knight of the Order of the famous *Crispin*, being originally by profession a Shomaker, and not many years since a Journyman; but on the pretensions aforesaid, where ever he came if he heard of any rich Maid, or wealthy widdow at their own disposal, he would very formally make Love to them, wherein being of handsome taking presence, and Master of a voluble insinuating tongue, he commonly succeeded to engage their easie affections. And having inveigled them to marry him, and for some small time injoy'd their persons, and got possession of their more beloved Estates, he would march off in Triumph with what ready mony and other portable things of value he could get, to another strange place, and there lay a new plot for a second Adventure, but was at last discovered in the West, and apprehended, and at the great charge of the Prosecutor brought up by *Habeas Corpus* hither, but however subtilly he behaved himself heretofore, I conceive he fail'd in his politicks, when being brought to the Bar and demanded what he could say

for

for himself why judgment should not pass upon him, whereas 'tis believed he might have had the benefit of the Clergy, he obstinately waived that, and insisted for Transportation, which being not thought convenient to be granted, because he stood charged in the Sheriffs custody with an Action of a thousand pounds, he thereupon received sentence with the rest to be hang'd.

To match him there was another (though not so famous) instance of the contrary sex, a woman being indicted for having two husbands at once alive, which being fully proved she was found Guilty, and her sex not being capable of the benefit of the Clergy, was likewise condemned to dye.

Another woman was arraigned as accessary to the sacrilegious Robbery of St. *Gilese's* Church Plate, for which some were executed last Sessions. The witness against her was the same upon whose Testimony (chiefly) they were condemned; who gave evidence that they sold the plate to her, at three shillings eight pence *per* ounce, and that she paid them for it all in Clipt-mony, for which they forced her to make some further allowance. But it seems she was so cunning, as not to drive the bargain in person, but kept one Chamber, discoursing them in another; so that they never perfectly saw her, upon which, and some other flaws in the evidence, the Jury were so favourable as to acquit her.

Another

A *Goldſmith* was alſo Arraigned for buying the ſame Plate, and ſome Priſoners ſwore they ſaw him ſuch a day, pay her part of the mony with an acknowledgment of more ſatisfied before; but he making it to appear that he was at that time out of Town, *&c.* was likewiſe found not Guilty.

There were three very gentile fellows Indicted for Felony and Burglary, ſtealing plate and monies to a great value, from a Gentleman of good quality in *Weſtminſter*. They all confeſſing the Fact, pleaded Guilty, and beg'd the mercy of the Court, ſo that there was no farther need of reproof or examination of Circumſtances, 'tis ſaid they received intimation of the prize, by applying themſelves to this Gentleman (being meer ſtrangers) on the account of getting a reprieve (on many faigned Arguments and Allegations) for ſome of their Confederates Condemned laſt Seſſions, and then with a moſt barbarous Ingratitude Robbb'd him for his Civility. However, they now pretended this was the firſt Felonious Fact that ever they committed, yet it being confeſſedly a Burglary, they were juſtly condemned to dye according to Law.

Three women of *Stepney* were indicted (one as principal the other two as acceſſaries) for ſtealing Hemp enough to make Halters for all the Rogues in Chriſtendome, that is to ſay, no leſs than four thouſand weight in one Indictment, and three thouſand in another. It being

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ſuggeſted that they had got a Key to a Rope-makers Warehouſe, whence at ſeveral times they purloyned thoſe vaſt quantities. But no direct proof appearing, they were all arquitted.

A Schoolmaſter was arraigned for a Rape or Carnal knowledge of a female Child of about ſeven or eight years of Age, but upon a Judicious Inquiſition into the matter he came off, being only found guilty of an Aſſault commited on her.

Two Men and two Women Convicted of ſeveral Burglaries and Felonies, being all old and notorious Malefactors, received ſentence of Condemnation.

A Broker and a Woman that kept an Inn, took their reſpective Tryals, as acceſſaries for receiving ſtoln Goods, but the Witneſſes being Priſoners, and thought to charge them out of malice, both were diſcharged.

There were in all nine condemned to dye, five were allowed their Clergy, and burnt in the hand, and ſix ordered for Tranſportation.

There was a Man ſome time before the Seſſions brought Priſoner to *Newgate*, on ſuſpition of murthering his Wife, but on examination of the matter, it appearing that he was Innocent, and the Woman a *Felo de ſe*, or ſelf-murtheress, the Grand-Jury returned the Bill *Ignoramus*.

*FINIS.*